

Sinclair Broadcast Group owns or programs content for stations in 62 markets, including several swing states. It has ordered stations to run an Anti-Kerry film, "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal", before the coming presidential election.

Because the CEO of this group has already given the maximum allowable contribution to the Bush Campaign, they now seek an alternate way to unscrupulously tip the scales in his favor. It is neither lawful nor ethical to coerce the use of our public airwaves to the benefit of one candidate at the expense of another; Sinclair, because it has been allowed to expand and control a large number of markets, is in an abusive position. It is time to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine, set aside by President Reagan. Ever since it evaporated under his hand, too many media outlets have used the public airwaves to broadcast partisan propaganda.

I'm not saying the program should not be available for people to view if they wish to. But it should be in a theatre, on cable, or presented as a paid political announcement. It should NOT be presented as news unless equal time is given to both candidates.

Consider, if you will, the ensuing ruckus if a broadcast group directed its subsidiaries to broadcast Fahrenheit 9/11 just before the election. Supporters of President Bush, and sensible people of both parties, would certainly object. And they would be right to do so.

Thank you.